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RP

No. 1258/67
18 July 1967

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MEMORANDUM

846708

SUBJECT: Preliminary Assessment of 13 July 1967
BLACK SHIELD Photography

Summary

The BLACK SHIELD Mission of 13 July obtained photography of the Red River area of North Vietnam and the DMZ area. Coverage of the prime missile search areas was limited, and no evidence of surface-to-surface missile deployment was noted. Although cloud cover averaged 50 percent for the mission, 71 SA-2 sites and four of the major airfields were photographed.

Note: This memorandum was prepared by the Office of Strategic Research and coordinated with the Offices of Current Intelligence and Economic Research. Photographic assistance was provided by the Imagery Analysis Staff.

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1. BLACK SHIELD Mission 6708, flown on 13 July 1967, made one pass over North Vietnam and the DMZ obtaining photographic coverage of about a 60-mile-wide strip running from the mouth of the Red River to near the Chinese border and also across the DMZ area. Cloud cover averaged about 50 percent, but was only zero to 30 percent along the Red River up to the Yen Bai area and zero percent in the coastal plain portion of the DMZ. Coverage of the prime missile search areas was limited, and no evidence of surface-to-surface missile deployment was noted. The fact that the mission route passed south of Hanoi provided new base line coverage of the DRV, but limited the coverage of SAM sites, airfields, and unidentified construction activities, since many of these are north of Hanoi.

2. A total of 71 SA-2 sites were identified, including one new site. Five of the sites were occupied. Fifty-four sites were unoccupied--including the one new site. The status of ten sites could not be determined. Two sites were shown to have been returned to agricultural use and have been dropped from the order of battle.

3. Four of the major airfields of North Vietnam--Phuc Yen, Hanoi/Gia Lam, Hoa Lac, and Hanoi/Bac Mai--were covered by the mission. Coverage of Phuc Yen Airfield--the main MIG base in North Vietnam--was limited by obliquity and scattered clouds, preventing a complete aircraft count, but clear photography of the other three airfields was obtained.

4. Fair-quality but oblique photography of Hanoi was obtained. Haiphong was not covered.

5. Of the 23 targets in the JCS list that are being followed at first priority in CIA's bomb damage assessment study, nine were covered by this mission.

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